

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 55-92 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claims 1-54 have been cancelled. Claims 55-92 have been added.

Final Office Action For Parent Application

In response to the final Office Action issued October 21, 2003, for the parent case, U.S. Patent Application No. 09/778,351, the Applicant provides the following comments.

Claims 1-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,409,602 to Wiltshire et al. (“Wiltshire”). In response to the Applicant’s arguments made in the parent case, the Office Action indicated that the Applicant argued that Wiltshire does not disclose loading game play software into a play engine. The Office Action stated:

In order for the Wiltshire’s server to execute a selected game, it is inherent for the selected game to be loaded into the server before execution. All of the means executed by the server cannot be simultaneously in an execution state for one gaming machine. Each game program has to be loaded and then executed in response to players selection of game. Therefore, Wiltshire does not disclose loading game play software into a play engine.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees. While, as the Examiner stated, it is inherent that a game be loaded into the server before execution, the Applicant does not merely recite loading game play software into a play engine. Specifically, with respect to new claims 55, 61 and 71, the Applicant recites that game play software is loaded into the play engine from the central server system responsive to the game being selected at a remote display terminal. Thus, rather than being preloaded into the play engine or server as described with respect to Wiltshire, the software may be stored in a central server system and then loaded into a play engine only responsive to selection by a user. The important distinction is that the software is not loaded until selected by the user. According to Wiltshire, all of the software for all of the games has to be loaded into the

server so that it can be executed by the server once selected by the user. This would require more storage in the play engine than is required by what is described in the Applicant's claims in which the selected game is only loaded in response to selection by a user. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 55, 61 and 71, and all claims dependent therefrom, are distinguishable from Wiltshire, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Office Action further stated that the Applicant argued that Wiltshire does not disclose a central server including a master game server, an execution game server or loading software from the master game server into the game execution server. The Office Action's position is that functions provided by the single game execution server disclosed in Wiltshire are equivalent to the Applicant's master server and game execution server. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Applicant's claimed use of a master game server and a game execution server provides several advantages over the single server disclosure in Wiltshire. In order to implement the system described in Wiltshire, multiple servers including all of the software would be required. The Applicant's system, on the other hand, including a master game server and a game execution server, could expand the system by merely adding additional game execution servers since the software is downloaded from the master game server to a game execution server responsive to a selection. Thus, the Applicant's system describing a master game server and a game execution server and the loading of software from the master game server into the game execution server provides a number of advantages over the single server system described in Wiltshire. The Applicant's system does not merely describe two separate servers performing the equivalent function of the single server disclosure of Wiltshire as indicated in the final Office Action. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 66,

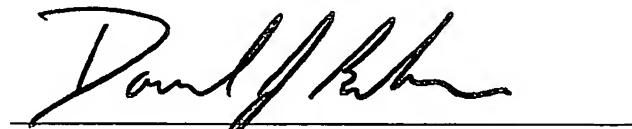
68, 87 and 91, and all claims dependent therefrom, are distinguishable from Wiltshire and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes the claims are allowable over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 29, 2004